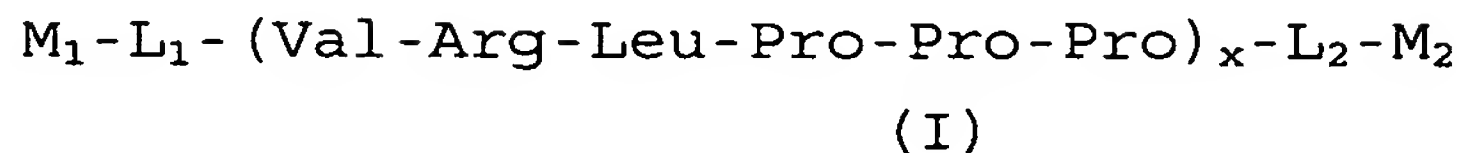


IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) 1. A compound of formula (I)



or a pharmaceutically or a biologically acceptable salt thereof, wherein

Val is L-Val or D-Val;

Arg is L-Arg, D-Arg or L-(N-methyl)Arg;

Pro is L-Pro or D-Pro;

Leu is L-Leu or D-Leu;

x is an integer from 1 to 20;

L<sub>1</sub> and L<sub>2</sub> are chemical linkers, which are identical or different, present or absent;

M<sub>1</sub> and M<sub>2</sub> are pharmacologically and/or biologically active moieties, which are identical or different, present or

absent; and

the bond between L<sub>1</sub> and M<sub>1</sub> and the bond between L<sub>2</sub> and M<sub>2</sub> are

of any of the known chemical natures, including covalent and ionic.

2. (Original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein chemical linkers are independently selected from peptide sequences up to 10 amino acid residues.

3. (Original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein pharmacologically and/or biologically active moieties are active pharmaceutical ingredients, nucleic acids, peptide nucleic acids, peptides, proteins, carbohydrates, lipids, sterols, nanoparticles, antibodies, dyes or probes.

4. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-3~~, wherein x is from 1 to 10.

5. (Original) The compound according to claim 4, wherein x is from 1 to 3.

6. (Original) The compound according to claim 5, wherein x is 3.

7. (Original) The compound according to claim 1, wherein L<sub>1</sub>, L<sub>2</sub>, M<sub>1</sub> and M<sub>2</sub> are all absent and, consequently the compound of formula (I) is (Val-Arg-Leu-Pro-Pro-Pro)<sub>x</sub>.

8. (Original) The compound according to claim 7, wherein x is 3.

9. (Original) The compound according to claim 7, having a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 1-6.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of the compound as defined in any of the claims 7-9 as~~ A cell penetrating carrier comprising a compound of claim 7.

11. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a ~~[[the]]~~ compound defined in claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-6~~, together with appropriate amounts of pharmaceutical excipients.

12. (Currently Amended) A cosmetic composition comprising a cosmetically effective amount of a ~~[[the]]~~ compound defined in claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1-6~~, together with appropriate amounts of cosmetic excipients.